

**DAILY** **VARIETY** **gotham**

Reed Business Information.

NEW YORK ■ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2007 ■ VARIETY.COM

# CODEBLACK ON 'LAUGH' TRACK

By **DAVE McNARY** HOLLYWOOD

CodeBlack Entertainment has launched production on a documentary film, "Why We Laugh: Black Comedians on Black Comedy."

"Why We Laugh" is produced and directed by Darryl Littleton and Robert Townsend ("The Five Heartbeats," "Eddie Murphy's Raw"). Exec producers include Jeff Clanagan and Quincy Newell of CodeBlack in association with Rhino Entertainment & Shout Factory founder Richard Foos.

Production began Sept. 1 and will continue through this month in Los Angeles, New York and Washington.

The 90-minute feature's been inspired by Littleton's book "Black Comedians on Black Comedy: How African-Americans Taught Us to Laugh." The film will include archival clips, re-enactments depicting the evolution of black comedy and interviews with comedians and social critics.

Interviews have already been conducted with D.L. Hughley, the Wayans brothers, Paul Mooney, Tommy Davison, Reynaldo Ray, Keenen Ivory Wayans, Marla Gibbs, Eddie Griffin and Katt Williams, with social and political commentary by Cornel West, Michael Eric Dyson, Russell Simmons and Stanley Crouch.